

THE OPENING:

- IF AN EMPLOYEE IS TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR WORK, DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE FOR THE EMPLOYEE TO KNOW WHAT WORK S/HE WILL BE EVALUATED ON? AND IF THIS IS TRUE OF GOD'S PEOPLE, THEN WHAT WORK CAN WE, AS THE CHURCH, BE EXPECTED TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR?
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE I WANT EACH OF US TO EXAMINE THE WORK WE ARE BEING ASKED TO DO AND TO MAKE IT KNOWN, SO THAT OTHERS CAN SEE AND EXPERIENCE GOD AT WORK IN (Y)OUR LIFE.

THE KEY POINTS:

- THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TESTIFY OF THE WORK WHICH GOD IS CALLING US TO IS TO (1) RECOGNIZE THE WORK HE HAS DONE & IS NOW DOING IN US, TO (2) EVALUATE HOW THIS WORK CAN BE OF USE TO OTHERS, AND TO (3) IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORK WHICH GOD IS MAKING EVIDENT.
- HOWEVER, THE WORK DONE EXTERNALLY IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE WORK DONE INTERNALLY – THEREFORE, WE CANNOT IGNORE THE BEST WORK OF TAKING TIME TO SIT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

IF WE ARE GOING TO HELP OTHERS, THEN LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR OWN CARE:

- **1 JOHN 3:1** '...OUR FATHER LOVES US, FOR HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE! BUT THE PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO THIS WORLD DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HIM.'
- **NOTE:** EITHER THE WORLD THINKS WE ARE LYING, OR THEY THINK GOD IS.
- **Q:** WHAT LIE DOES GOD WANT YOU TO STOP BELIEVING SO THAT OTHERS CAN BEGIN TO KNOW HOW GREAT GOD'S LOVE IS FOR BOTH YOU & THEM.

THE TEXT:

- **1 JOHN 1:5** 'THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HEARD FROM JESUS & NOW DECLARE TO YOU: GOD IS LIGHT, & THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN HIM AT ALL.'
- **Q:** HOW MUCH OF GOD'S LIGHT IS SHINING IN YOUR LIFE - TODAY?

- **Q:** WHAT DOES GOD'S LIGHT REVEAL – ABOUT JESUS/OTHERS/YOURSELF?
- **1 JOHN 1:6** 'SO WE ARE LYING IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BUT GO ON LIVING IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS; WE ARE NOT PRACTICING THE TRUTH.'
- **Q: WHAT DOES FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD LOOK LIKE TO YOU?**
- **Q:** WHAT SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (HABITS) ARE YOU ACTUALLY DOING?
- **1 JOHN 1:7** 'BUT IF WE ARE LIVING IN THE LIGHT, AS GOD IS IN THE LIGHT, THEN WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS, HIS SON, CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.'
- **Q: WHAT DOES FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE LOOK LIKE?**

THE NEXT STEPS:

- IF FELLOWSHIP IS A UNIQUE TERM THAT GOD WANTS HIS CHURCH TO UNDERSTAND AND PRACTICE, THEN WHAT WORDS, IMAGES, SYMBOLS, AND HABITS MIGHT HELP PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO THIS WORLD BETTER RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH OF GOD IS AVAILABLE AND LIVING IN EACH OF US.

THE MAIN TO DO:

- **Q:** HAVE YOU MADE A DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY, AND YEARLY PLAN TO BE SPIRITUALLY RENEWED; EMOTIONALLY RECHARGED; AND PHYSICALLY REFRESHED?
- IF YOU HAVEN'T YET MADE A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO GOD, THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
- **MATTHEW 6:33** 'SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.'
- **DAILY** – I COMMIT TO ___X___; AND I STAY AWAY FROM ___Y___
- **WEEKLY** – I WITHDRAW FROM ___A___; AND I WITHDRAW FOR ___B___
- **MONTHLY** – I MAINTAIN __1, 2, 3_ SO THAT I HEAR, LEARN, & OBEY GOD.
- **ANNUALLY** – I YIELD TO __X, Y, Z__ SO THAT I AM RENEWED, RECHARGED, & REFRESHED

LET US NOT BE FOOLED INTO THINKING THAT WE ARE LIVING COMPLETE:

1 JOHN 1:8 'IF WE CLAIM WE HAVE NO SIN, WE ARE ONLY FOOLING OURSELVES AND NOT LIVING IN THE TRUTH.'

- IF WE'RE NOT LIVING IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD THEN WHO IS THE FOOL?

1 JOHN 1:9 'BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL WICKEDNESS.'

- **CONFESS:** TO ACKNOWLEDGE (A FAULT, CRIME, MISDEED, WEAKNESS, ETC.) BY WAY OF REVELATION.
- **Q:** WHAT PART OF OUR LIVES NEEDS TO LIVE IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD?

1 JOHN 1:10 'IF WE CLAIM WE HAVE NOT SINNED, WE ARE CALLING GOD A LIAR, AND SHOWING THAT HIS WORD HAS NO PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.'

- SINCE GOD IS NOT A LIAR, AND WE HAVE DECIDED THAT WE WILL NO LONGER ALLOW THE DEVIL TO LIE TO US, WE CHOOSE TO LIVE FOR GOD – AND FOR OTHERS TO KNOW OUR COMMITMENT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC WORDS, IMAGES, SYMBOLS, AND HABITS THAT WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND AND REVEAL THE TRUTH OF GOD'S LIFE BEING PRESENT AND AVAILABLE IN EACH ONE OF US.

THE CLOSING:

- TO HAVE A COMPLETE LIFE ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS WHICH MAKE UP THE WHOLE.
- **Q:** WHAT ARE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS WHICH HELP MAKE UP THE WHOLE OF YOUR LIFE WITH AND FOR GOD?
- **Q:** ARE THERE SPECIFIC HABITS WHICH WILL HELP YOU SEE, EXPERIENCE AND SHARE GOD'S TRUTH (HIS LOVE)?